

REMARKS

Claims 2-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-4 and 16 are amended and claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; b) does not raise any new reasons that require further search and/or consideration; and c) places the application in better form for an appeal should an appeal be necessary.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 5-15 are allowed and that claims 2, 4, 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, each of claims 2, 4 and 16 are rewritten in independent form to include features of previous independent claim 1. Thus, each of claims 2, 4 and 16 defines patentable subject matter. Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and claim 17 depends from claim 4 and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

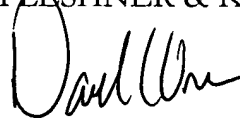
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-17 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David C. Oren**, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 09/478,496
Reply to Office Action dated September 22, 2004

Docket No. K-0151

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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